

ENTERTAINMENT

'Home Alone' plays on 'It's A Wonderful Life'

HOME ALONE

PG-13

Cinema World

★ ★ ★

- - Don't bother
- - Wait to rent it
- - Worth the time
- - A must see

By Helen Phan
Emerald Contributor

Each year, the holidays provide movies with a new twist on the *It's a Wonderful Life* theme. *Home Alone* is no exception.

Kevin McCallister (Macaulay Culkin) is the typical kid nightmare. His family has pinned him as the trouble-maker.

He moans, "Why do I always get treated like scum?"

Chaos bombards the mansion as his whole family prepares for a trip to Paris three days before Christmas. During a stinging argument with his mom, he tells her that he wished his whole family would disappear. And they do.

Actually, Kevin's family accidentally forgets him in the frantic rush to the airport. Eight-year-old Kevin is left, home alone, to fend for himself.

Have you ever had the feeling that something is missing? His mom (Catherine O'Hara) nervously ponders that thought on the plane. When she finally realizes the mishap, she desperately tries to go back home

even though the holiday rush has all the flights booked.

Meanwhile, back at home, Kevin enjoys the freedom about which most kids can only dream. He eats mounds of ice cream for dinner, watches off-limits videos and explores unknown domains — including his brother's private stash.

He even gets to ride his sleigh down the stairs through the doorway. Surprisingly, he also becomes very domestic, washing laundry and showering himself, being sure to reach all his crevices.

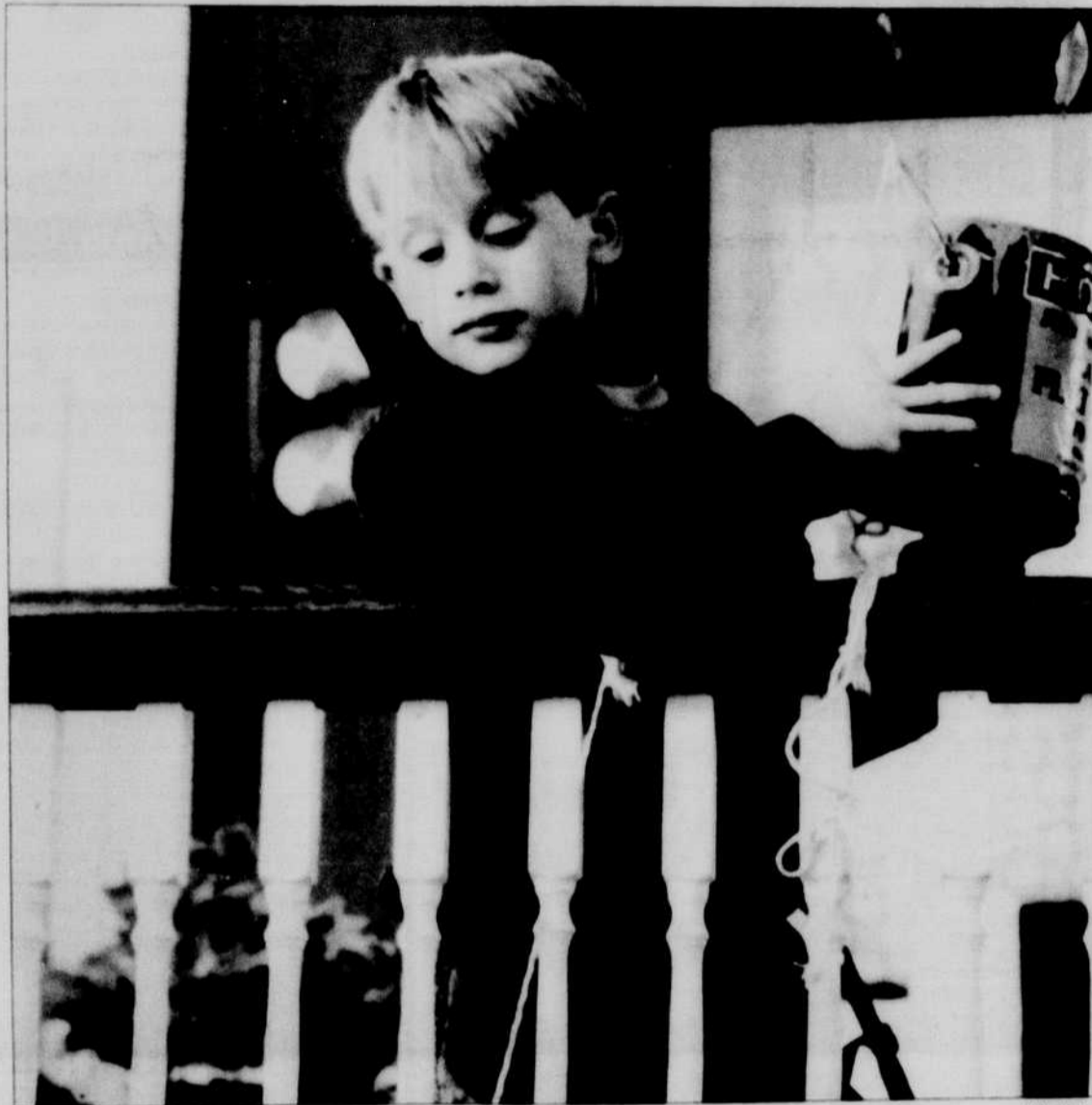
But can he defend his home from two inane burglars making their holiday score? Taking the Rambo role, Kevin sets out to defend his home with innovative booby traps.

Some of the more grisly traps include scorching the hair off Harry, the leader, and setting an iron to fall on the face of his dimwitted partner, Peter. Afterwards, Kevin celebrates each victory with an excited arm pump and a call of "Yes!"

But what makes *Home Alone* stand out is writer and producer John Hughes. His previous works include *Uncle Buck*, *National Lampoon's Vacation* and *The Breakfast Club*.

Underneath the blizzard, *Home Alone* reminds its audience about the importance of family unity and the true spirit of the holiday season.

Although some of the gags are repetitive, *Home Alone* is worth the trip for the Christmas music and the holiday spirit.



File photo
Macaulay Culkin stars as eight-year-old Kevin McCallister, defending his house against a pair of bumbling burglars when his family flies off on holiday, accidentally leaving him Home Alone

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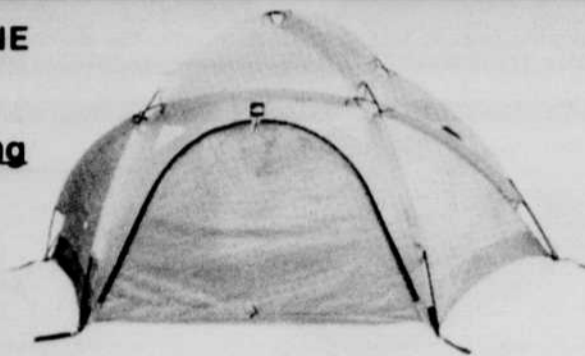
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